

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LENINGRAD 1839

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TAGS: PFOR, PROP, XX, UR

SUBJ: LENINGRAD CONFERENCE OF PEACE LOVERS GATHERS MOMENTUM

REF: LENINGRAD 1833

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL MOVEMENTS FOR PEACE WAS NO DIFFERENT IN TONE FROM THAT OF A CPSU PLENUM. THE FIVE DAY CONFERENCE BEGAN WITH

A FORMAL MESSAGE OF GREETINGS FROM BREZHNEV, PRAISE TO PROGRESSIVE PEACE LOVERS AND THEIR EFFORTS, AND CRITICISM OF THE FORCES OF REACTION AND IMPERIALISM FOR THEIR CONTINUED INTRIGUES. TOP LENINGRAD PARTY OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPENING SESSION AND THERE WERE PLENTY OF FINE WORDS ABOUT LEONID IL'ICH BREZHNEV ALONG WITH THE AWARD TO HIM OF THE "GOLDEN MEDAL OF PEACE." IN SHORT, THE PHYSICAL SETTING FOR THE CONFERENCE'S OPENING SESSION WAS INDEED THE PERFECT SPOT TO GATHER: THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF SMOLNYY (COMMUNIST PARTY HEAD-QUARTERS IN LENINGRAD), WHERE LENIN HIMSELF PROCLAIMED THE FIRST DECREE OF SOVIET POWER--ON PEACE--IN OCTOBER 1917. END SUMMARY.

2. THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL MOVEMENTS FOR PEACE TOOK PLACE AT SMOLNYY ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 21. ONLY SWEDISH AND FINNISH CONSULS GENERAL, AMONG WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN LENINGRAD, ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO ATTEND. FORMER SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD POLOFF THAT EVENT WAS BLATANTLY STAGED AS A REGULAR CPSU MEETING. OBLAST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY (AND CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO) V.V. ROMANOV, LENINGRAD CITY PARTY FIRST SECRETARY B.I. ARISTOV, AND OBLAST PARTY SECOND SECRETARY YU.F. SOLOV

- YEV ALL TURNED OUT FOR THE EVENT. ROMANOV ANNOUNCED THE FORMAL MESSAGE OF GREETINGS FROM BREZHNEV TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, WHICH EVOKED LONG APPLAUSE, IN WHICH BREZHNEV PRAISED COURSE OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND RESULTS OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING AND CRITICIZING OPPONENTS OF DETENTE. IN DEBIT COLUMN, BREZHNEV SAID IN HIS MESSAGE THAT OPPONENTS OF DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT ARE NOT LAYING DOWN WEAPONS AND, IN VARIOUS WAYS, ARE ATTEMPTING TO SOW DIS-

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TRUST AND ENMITY AMONG STATES, PULL NATIONS BACK TO THE TIMES OF THE "COLD WAR," AND CALL FOR ACCUMULATION OF EVER GREATER RESERVES OF MORE DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS.

3. AMONG PRESIDUM MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE AT PLENARY SESSION WERE FOLLOWING: ALBERT NORDEN, MEMBER OF POLITBURO OF SED FROM GDR; MI-RIAM VIRE-TUOMINEN, FINNISH PEACE ACTIVIST; GUSTA FUCHINKOVA, MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CZECHOSLOVAK CP; CANON RAIMON GOOR, CHAIRMAN

OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION; TAUFIK TUBI, MEMBERS OF POLITBURO OF ISRAELI CP; RICARDO MOLINA MARTI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF VENEZUELAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PEACE; NDAO NDENE, CHAIRMAN OF SENEGALESE PEACE COMMITTEE; GENERAL GEORGIOS YORDANIDIS, CHAIRMAN OF GREEK COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND PEACE; AZIZ SHERIF, GENERAL SECRETARY OF IRAQI PEACE COUNCIL; AND MICHEL LANGINON, SECRETARY OF THE FRENCH MOVEMENT FOR PEACE. ANOTHER HONORED MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CONFERENCE WAS V.S. SHAPOSHNIKOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE CPSU'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

4. MRS. N.G. YELISEYEVA, DEPUTY MAYOR OF LENINGRAD, ADDRESSED THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PLENARY SESSION IN HER CAPACITY AS A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF PEACE. SHE QUICKLY SET THE STAGE FOR HER REMARKS BY PRAISING THE PEACE PROGRAM OF THE 24TH PARTY CONGRESS, ATTRIBUTING DEEP CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA TO THE SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION OF THE SOVIET PEACE PROGRAM. YELISEYEVA REFERRED TO THE GLORIOUS VICTORIES OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND FREEDOM LOVERS OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA WHICH BROUGHT AN END TO THE BLOODSHED OF THE WAR IN INDOCHINA, THE DEFEAT OF FASCISM IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL, AND THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CSCE.

5. AFTER A COUPLE OF BOILERPLATE SPEECHES BY WORKER AND VETERAN REPRESENTATIVES, THE MAIN SPEECH WAS GIVEN BY ROMESH CHANDRI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE. CHANDRI OOZED ABOUT THE WISDOM AND SUCCESSES OF THE 24TH PARTY CONGRESS'S PROGRAM OF PEACE

AND HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR BREZHNEV PERSONALLY. HE SAID THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD WERE PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL AND THANKFUL TO COMRADE BREZHNEV, ELABORATING THAT "HIS CONSISTENT AND PURPOSEFUL WORK, PERSISTENCE AND ENERGY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE, HIS TIRELESS ACTIVITY TOWARD STRENGTHENING THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE, CHARACTERIZE HIM AS AN EMINENT STATE FIGURE OF THIS ERA AND IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HISTORY

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 PM-04

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OF HUMANITY". FOLLOWING THESE MODEST WORDS, CHANDRI TOOK STOCK OF THE
CAUSE OF PEACE IN TODAY'S WORLD.

6. CHANDRI CALLED FOR THE NATIONS OF EUROPE TO BRING INTO LIFE THE

DOCUMENTS SIGNED IN HELSINKI. ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE OPPONENTS OF DETENTE WOULD NOT SUCCEED IN OVERSHADOWING THE PROSPECTS OPENED BY CSCE, THIS CONVICTION SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH VIGILANCE AGAINST ATTEMPTS OF IMPERIALISTS AND REACTION AIMED AT UNDERMINING THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE. SPEL-

LING THIS OUT, CHANDRI EMPHASIZED THAT CONFERENCE WAS TAKING PLACE AT A TIME WHEN ENEMIES OF PEACE AND PROGRESS WERE INCREASING THEIR ACTIVITY IN UNDISGUISED MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THE IMPERIALISTSWERE ALSO TARRED FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES IN BANGLADESH AND LEBANON AND FOR TRYING TO FERMENT A SPLIT AMONG THE ARAB PEOPLES AND UNDERMINE THE UNITED FRONT OF THEIR STRUGGLE. CHANDRI VOICED SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO CONVENE QUICKLY A SESSION OF THE MEPC, USING THE PARTY LINE ON PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE CHILEAN LEADERS GOT THEIR KNOCKS WHILE CHANDRI THEN MOVED TO PORTUGAL AND EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-FASCIST DEMOCRATIC FORCES THERE, CALLING ON ALL FOR WHOM PEACE AND FREEDOME IS DEAR TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE.

7. CHANDRI FINALLY WOUND UP BY CHARACTERIZING PRESENT LENINGRAD CONFERENCE AS IMPORTANT STAGE OF PREPARATION FOR A WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE IN POLAND IN 1977. THE GRAND FINALE OF THE ASSEMBLY, THOUGH, COULD ONLY BE TERMED POIGNANT: AFTER ALL THE SPEECHIFYING, TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE SONG "LET THERE ALWAYS BE SUN," A THRONG OF "YOUNG LENINISTS" ENTERED THE HALL AND PRESENTED CARNATIONS TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

8. CONGEN NOTES THAT CENTRAL PRAVDA ACCOUNT OF NOV 22, ALTHOUGH LESS DETAILED THAN COVERAGE IN LENINGRAD PRESS, MAKES NOTE OF ANTI-CHINESE SENTIMENT WHICH WAS NOT RPT NOT REPORTED IN LENINGRAD PAPERS. ACCORDING TO CENTRAL PRAVDA, THERE WAS AT PLENARY SESSION SHARP CRITICISM OF SPLITTING POSITIONS OF PEKING LEADERSHIP, WHICH, STRIVING TO BREAK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PROGRESS OF POSITIVE CHANGES, ALLIES ITSELF WITH THE MOST REACTIONARY BOURGEOIS CIRCLES. PRAVDA OFFERS THIS AS PROOF THAT PEKING'S LEADERS ARE THUS TO BE CONSIDERED ENEMIES OF THE WORLD MOVEMENT OF SUPPORTERS OF PEACE.

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